Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

NOVEMBER 1987 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the library. Our next meeting is November 17. Hope to see you there.

Where do I start? So much has happened since the last newsletter. First of all, we no longer have to hang our heads in shame over the empty display case in the library. Member Cindy Faubion found just the right 'alligator' type lock to secure our valuables, so our Sylvanite gold scales, blowpan, and other mining memorabilia are now being admired by all who enter the premises.

Mary Bradish, Alyce Bottelson, and myself put GHHS displays into three glass protected wall mounted cases in the new post office. Our lobby displays were set up the day before open house festivities were held in the facility. A couple of the displays have since been rotated out and new reproductions of old photos put up in their place. This was done to prevent the originals from deteriorating due to over-exposure to light sources; also to stimulate a continuing interest in our Society's goals. Two 1987 Gold Dust Day grand marshals, Mary Truax Hendricks and Ernie Lyman, have made special trips to view the photos and both were inspired to donate additional photos to us in appreciation.

Some of Boyce Kellogg's family photos have been reproduced for us and we have negatives in our files. You will recall that he is the son of prominent 1900's Jackson County Coroner A.E. Kellogg. Their family home still stands here in Gold Hill. Boyce's valuable oral history has already been put on tape for our archives. He is currently searching for a photo he has misplaced which shows the big 2nd Avenue fire of 1915.

Richard Faltersack has graciously offered us the free use of a storage shed at his new mini-storage building across from Patrick School. It was decided, at our last meeting, to store items there which would not be too adversely affected by extremes in temperature. Valuable papers and all photos would remain in members homes for the time being.

Boy, when we make a goal list we don't fool around do we? Another 1987 goal bit the dust when Tom submitted our grant proposal bid to Southern Oregon Historical Society. It's now time to set our 1988 goals. Let's be ambitious! Put your thinking caps on and bring those ideas to Tuesdays meeting.

Our September 19 rummage sale held in the parking area of the Gold Hill Shopping Center was a wonderful success - monetarily and exposure-wise. Special thanks to all who donated items and/or gave of your time and muscle on that day.

On Wednesday, November 11, five of our hard-core workers spent the day shuffling heavy, dusty boxes from Mayor Gus Wolf's office to the newly built storage area. City employees did the carpentry and painting. Now the old city records boxes are stored in numerical order, protected from the elements. The next step will be to do a more thorough cataloging, and get the contents into acid-free boxes. And, of course, there are still more dusty,spider-webbed boxes left in the old city storage shed praying for their escape from the broiling summer heat and the damp chill of winter. Will we ever find the time to save them?!

There are a multitude of thank you's to go out - I'm bound to miss some of you wonderful volunteers. If I don't mention your name, know that in our hearts you are appreciated: our Connecticut historian, Anne Millbrooke, for the big bottle of liquid to stabilize our paper artifacts. The solution deacidifies and protects. Also for the four acid-free storage boxes and the History News subscription; to Clare Moore for giving of her time to mark and catalog the numerous mining tools and other Society items stored in their cellar; to Troy and Marty Newell for the heavy duty music stand podium to hold our photo album; Margerette Black for her generous donation towards duplicating the Kellogg family pictures; Alyce Bottelson for offering to record Mary Hendricks visit to the post office displays by photograph; Linda Genaw for her selfless hours spent in researching other members historic homes; and Genevieve Heil for helping me muddle through the forms for non-profit status (which has temporarily been denied - but we're going to reapply after we comply with all of IRS requirements such as amending our by-laws. We don't give up that easily!).

One of our elder treasures has passed away before we could tap many of her old Gold Hill memories. Edith Martin died just a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to Don and Clare Moore for their efforts with Blanche and her sister Edith.

One of our members was asked to be an extra in the big Scope's "Monkey Trial" movie which was just filmed in Jacksonville. LaRue Morris, complete with his Hollywood make-up and little wire-rimmed eyeglasses, was in two days of filming with Kirk Douglas and Darren McGavin. We'll have to get his autograph. He was also requested to speak to four classes at South Medford High School on historical topics. Those young people will love him!

Any of you ever hear about a Gold Hill High School beaver belt buckle? If so, contact Russ Rogers. He's looking for some info. (855-7428)

Sid and Audry Strahan, descendants of the White family who built the covered toll bridge at Rock Point, the old stage stop (which still stands), and donated the Rock Point Cemetery - their old family grave yard - to the public, have consented to let us have copies of some of their wonderful old photographs of the area. What good fortune it was to accidently stumble across them. The future will benefit.

JANET SESSIONS, EDITOR